

Wake up...!!!

February 2017

Volume 5, Issue 2

Are you getting ready?

Is this warm streak motivating you to get your seedlings started? Were you one of those who actually got out in the garden to see if the soil has thawed yet?

A reminder that we will have our required **All-Gardeners' Meeting** on March 18th. An [Evite](#) will be sent shortly - see the following article for details.

We are signing up folks wanting to join the gardening ranks at the PPCG. There was some availability at Yale but it is quickly filling. We do have raised beds and GardenShare memberships available at the Towerside site. Now that the soil remediation and stormwater system construction is finished at Towerside, we have big plants for how to take that site and our involvement in the surrounding area to the next level. For a glimpse into our future, please see the Big Changes Ahead article on page 2 and at the Meeting.

The Steering Committing has been working behind the scenes to strengthen our operations. Please complete the [Survey](#) so that we can test this new process for collecting important gardener information. And we are setting up teams to share the workload of maintaining our sites.

So prepare yourself for what's ahead as the vision for our Urban Agrihood becomes a reality. I'm excited to share more of this news with you at the All-Gardener's Meeting.

Del

All-Gardeners Meeting (March 18th)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We will have a **REQUIRED** All-Gardeners Meeting on **Saturday March 18th** from **10:00 a.m.—12:00 pm**. If you are unable to attend please have someone attend on your behalf. The location this year will be the **Community Hall at the Prospect Park United Methodist Church**, 22 Orlin Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. This will be a great opportunity to

reunite with your fellow gardeners. This is where you will receive your "official" plot assignments and you can sign up for your service commitments. We will also review our policies, procedures, and projects and answer any questions. And you can catch up with any outstanding paperwork. Please RSVP to the Evite we will send soon.

A REMINDER: PLOT FEES!!!

If you haven't already done so, the fees are **due March 1st**. The fees will remain the same in 2017: \$30 for a full plot (\$20 for a half) at Arthur and Yale, \$10 for a 4x8 raised bed at Towerside, and \$20 for the Towerside GardenShare which includes soil and hydroponic plantings. Please mail, walk, or run them to:

Prospect Park Community Gardens

125 Cecil Street S.E.

Minneapolis, MN 55414

Remember, we will not be chasing after people this year. **THIS IS YOUR FINAL NOTICE**. If we have not received payment by **March 1st**, we will release your plot or raised bed to someone else. So don't wait - please **get your payment in NOW**.

Seed Swap

At the end of the All Gardeners' Meeting we'll have a **Seed Swap** again. Bring some of your extra seeds and swap them with others who have seeds you would like to try. Later in the spring we may also facilitate a plant swap. This will be an opportunity to put the extra seedlings you grow to good use and to try some new plants that others have leftover in your gardens.

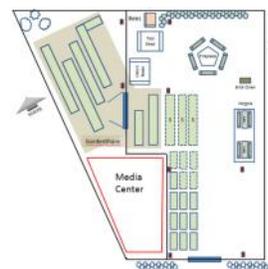
Share Shelves

Steve Weeks is working on plans to build Share Shelves at each site. This will be an opportunity for gardeners to share their extra produce with others in the neighborhood or passers by. More on this garden gleaning idea at the All Gardeners' Meeting

Welcome to the New Gardener!

See the article on Page 2.

PicStrip (click to enlarge):



PPCG NEWS—PAGE 2

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Welcome New Gardeners!

It's still too early to know who is not returning, but we have picked up some new gardeners this year. Welcome aboard!

- Erik Halgren (Yale)

Big Changes Ahead in the Towerside Area

An [urbanist's dream of creating a new MSP Innovation District](#) that would create a [national model](#) for city living. Is emerging. The idea of an [Urban Arghood](#) is happening right before our eyes. [Rise](#) is establishing itself as a strong presence in the new downtown Prospect Park area. [Green on Forth](#), another [Prospect Park Properties](#) effort which will share the block with PPCG Towerside and the [Towerside district stormwater system](#), is scheduled for groundbreaking soon. Aeon is planning an affordable housing development across the street. Plans for Malcolm Yards are taking shape. A senior high rise development is planned for the corner of University and Malcolm where they hope to have a rooftop garden for their residents. And the construction for the infrastructure for [Green Forth Street](#) will begin this fall.

A [Parkland Dedication Fee](#) is being collected as part of each of these developments which is money that must be spent in the neighborhoods where it is collected. And you can bet the PPCG will have a front row seat at the table to determine how this money can be used to make this innovation district a great place to live using healthy and sustainable eating as a core value and executed through our [Urban Arghood](#) initiatives.

The PPCG through the Prospect Park Association has submitted two proposals to the [UMN Good Neighbor Fund](#) for consideration. One is the Hanging Gardens of Towerside and the other is the Towerside Media Center. More on these at the Meeting.

So welcome aboard, fasten your seatbelts, and enjoy the ride. It's a beautiful day in the [Arghood!](#)



Spring Crops!

Check out [THIS](#) seasonal planting guide for suggestions on spring veggies to plant and harvest.

Also, please remember to compost! We are encouraging techniques to compost within your own plots such as trenching. Please see the [January 2015 newsletter](#) for a great article on direct incorporation of organic matter back into the soil. If anyone would like to learn a little more about composting, click [HERE](#).

Spring Timeframe

- Click [HERE](#) for a short list of Helpful tips on beginning a garden!

- Please refresh yourself on the milestone dates in the Handbook. Click [HERE](#) to see it on our Web site.

Thanks!

Thanks to Kit (T) and Lydia (A) for developing the Survey.

A collage of five gardening guides from the University of Minnesota Extension. Each guide has a yellow header with the university logo and title. VGB 1: Getting Ready to Garden, prepared by Dal Hampton. VGB 2: Planting Your Garden, prepared by Dal Hampton. VGB 3: Veggies One By One, prepared by Mollie Dean. VGB 4: Designing Your Garden, prepared by Julie Davis. VGB 5: Maintain Your Garden, prepared by Mary Wertz. To the right of the guides is a large, stylized sun icon with a smiling face.